APPENDIX A PENDING CLAIMS AS OF MAY 21, 2002 U.S. PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 09/686,346 ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10624-026-999

- 28. (new) A method for screening for a modulator of MAP kinase signal transduction comprising:
 - (a) contacting a TAO polypeptide or variant thereof with an agent;
 - (b) incubating said contacted TAO with a MEK polypeptide; and
 - (c) determining the level of MEK activation,

wherein detecting a change in the level of MEK activation relative to a MEK incubated with a TAO polypeptide not contacted with said agent indicates that said agent is a modulator.

- 29. (new) A method for screening for a modulator of MAP kinase signal transduction comprising:
 - (a) contacting a cell expressing a TAO polypeptide or variant thereof and aMEK polypeptide with an agent; and
- (b) determining the level of MEK activation,
 wherein detecting a change in the level of MEK activation in said contacted cell relative to a cell
 not contacted with said agent indicates that said agent is a modulator.
- 30. (new) The method of claim 28 or 29, wherein said TAO is selected from the group consisting of TAO1, TAO2, and ceTAO.
 - 31. (new) The method of claim 28 or 29, wherein said TAO is a TAO variant.
- 32. (new) The method of claim 31, wherein said TAO variant comprises the catalytic domain.
- 33. (new) The method of claim 32, wherein said TAO variant is selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) amino acid residues 1-320 of TAO1;
 - (b) amino acid residues 1-416 of TAO1;
 - (c) amino acid residues 15-285 of TAO1;

- (d) amino acid residues 1-320 of TAO2;
- (e) amino acid residues 1-416 of TAO2;
- (f) amino acid residues 15-285 of TAO2;
- (g) amino acid residues 1-358 of ceTAO;
- (h) amino acid residues of 1-454 ceTAO; and
- (i) amino acid residues 47-323 of ceTAO.
- 34. (new) The method of claim 28 or 29, wherein said MEK is selected from the group consisting of MEK1, MEK2, MEK3, MEK4, and MEK6.
- 35. (new) The method of claim 28 or 29, wherein said modulator increases MAP kinase signal transduction.
- 36. (new) The method of claim 28 or 29, wherein said modulator decreases MAP kinase signal transduction.
- 37. (new) The method of claim 28 or 29, wherein said MEK activation is indicated by MEK phosphorylation.
- 38. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein a decrease in MEK phosphorylation indicates a decrease in MAP kinase signal transduction.
- 39. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein an increase in MEK phosphorylation indicates an increase in MAP kinase signal transduction.
- 40. (new) The method of claim 28 or 29, wherein said agent is an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.
 - 41. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
- 42. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein said agent is an antisense polynucleotide or a ribozyme.

- 43. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein said MEK activation is indicated by p38 activity.
- 44. (new) The method of claim 43, wherein said p38 activity is indicated by p38 phosphorylation.
- 45. (new) The method of claim 44, wherein a decrease in p38 phosphorylation indicates a decrease in MAP kinase signal transduction.
- 46. (new) The method of claim 44, wherein an increase in p38 phosphorylation indicates an increase in MAP kinase signal transduction.
- 47. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein said MEK activation is indicated by expression of a reporter gene under the control of a MEK-dependent promoter.
- 48. (new) The method of claim 47, wherein said MEK-dependent promoter is ATF2.